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author here traces these effects of the environment. Means of measuring photosynthetic activity described in the first chapter are applied to the study of this form of activity in saprophytes and parasites and to the effect of light, temperature, moisture, and mineral salts on this function in green plants having a normal nutrition. R. H. T.

**Our Forests.** — Popular interest in the preservation of forests is too often a matter of extremes, so diverse reasons as pure emotion or simple business considerations leading to the wish for their protection, while private greed is ever encroaching on them in the most ruthless fashion. A most attractive presentation of the subject from the æsthetic standpoint is made in a little book by G. F. Schwarz.<sup>1</sup> A pleasingly written commentary on a few selected trees representative of our deciduous and coniferous woods is followed by chapters on forest adornment, the distribution of American forests, the characters of the broad-leaf and coniferous forests, and the artificial forests of Europe. Throughout, the book is well illustrated by process cuts. It is neither botany nor forestry, but a delightful presentation of the beauties of nature as exemplified in forests, equally correct in treatment when viewed from either of these special points of view, and calculated to draw increased attention to the desirability of holding as tenaciously as possible to what is still left of this most charming phase of nature. T.

**The Annals of the Calcutta Garden.**<sup>2</sup> — Like its predecessors, this volume is not only well brought out, but of permanent value, and the authors, Messrs. King, Duthie, and Prain, are to be congratulated on it. The plates are lithographed, and an excellent photogravure representing *Albizzia Richardiana* serves as frontispiece. T.

**Notes.** — In the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for December Miss Eastwood describes several new *Delphiniums* from California.

A paper on seed coats of certain species of *Brassica*, including good anatomical figures, by A. J. Pieters and V. K. Charles, is published as *Bulletin 29 of the Division of Botany of the United States Department of Agriculture*.

<sup>1</sup> Schwarz, G. F. *Forest Trees and Forest Scenery*. New York, The Grafton Press, 1901. xiv + 183 pp.

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta*. Vol. ix, pt. i, A Second Century of New and Rare Indian Plants. Calcutta, The Bengal Secretarial Press, 1901. 82 pp., 94 pls. £1 13s.